

March 7, 2006

**MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR
MEETING OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance City Council convened in an adjourned regular session at 6:02 p.m. on Tuesday, March 7, 2006 in City Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Guyton, Mauno, McIntyre, Nowatka, Scotto, Witkowsky, and Mayor Walker.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Jackson, City Attorney Fellows, City Clerk Herbers, and other staff representatives.

2. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Guyton.

Councilmember Witkowsky gave the non-sectarian invocation.

3. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING/WAIVE FURTHER READING

MOTION: Councilmember McIntyre moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Guyton and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

MOTION: Councilmember McIntyre moved that after the City Clerk has read aloud the number and title to any resolution or ordinance on the meeting agenda, the further reading thereof shall be waived, reserving and guaranteeing to each Councilmember the right to demand the reading of any such resolution or ordinance in regular order. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Scotto and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

4. WITHDRAWN OR DEFERRED ITEMS

None.

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

6. COMMUNITY MATTERS

6A. RESOLUTION NO. 2006-17 RE JAMES P. ELLINGSON

RESOLUTION NO. 2006-17

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE
HONORING JAMES P. ELLINGSON UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM
THE CITY AFTER TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS OF SERVICE.

MOTION: Councilmember Witkowsky moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2006-17. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Scotto and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

To be presented at a later date.

6B. RECOGNITION OF WEST HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC DECATHLON TEAM

Mayor Walker presented certificates to the West High School Academic Decathlon Team in recognition of their first place finish in the Los Angeles County Academic Decathlon: Garo Akmakjian, Benjamin Lin, Helena Zhang, Megan Elizabeth Lau, Grace Wu, Lawrence Zhang, Robert Schwarz, Christopher Thompson, Mark Woods and coach Shelly Thompson. Ms. Thompson reported on the team's training regimen and highlighted team members' accomplishments.

6C. PRESENTATION RE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON OVERHEAD AND UNDERGROUND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

Scott Gobble, representing Southern California Edison, gave a Power Point presentation on SCE's Overhead and Underground Maintenance Program. He noted that \$9 billion has been allocated to upgrade the system over the next five years; that outside contractors will be used due to the scope of the project; and that customers in affected areas will be notified and every effort will be made to minimize inconvenience.

Councilmember Mauno questioned whether there would be a financial advantage for neighborhoods with overhead wires to form special assessment districts to underground utilities at this time.

Mr. Gobble advised that neighborhoods that underground utilities receive a credit as required by the Public Utilities Commission, which is a percentage of the total cost, and this amount is not affected by the fact that repairs are taking place in the area.

Councilmember Witkowsky asked about notification, and Mr. Gobble explained that customers will be notified in advance of any interruption in service via a postcard mailed to the address on record.

Councilmember Witkowsky noted that there have been problems in the past with people posing as utility workers and asked how residents would be able to verify that a sub-contractor is employed by SCE before allowing access to their property.

Police Chief Herren recommended that residents ask anyone wishing to enter their property to show proper identification and to call the police if they are not satisfied with the identification presented. Mr. Gobble confirmed that all contractors will have identification badges, which will indicate that they are working for SCE.

Councilmember Scotto questioned how long residents would be without power. Mr. Gobble reported that customers will experience power outages from 3 to 12 hours while power lines are changed out; that they will be notified far in advance so they can prepare; and that they may call SCE's 24-hour service line at 1-800-655-4555 if they have any questions.

Councilmember McIntyre asked about the recycling of materials, Mr. Gobble explained that utility poles cannot be recycled due to hazardous chemicals, but virtually everything else is recycled.

In response to Councilmember McIntyre's inquiry, Mr. Gobble provided clarification regarding SCE's policy with regard to trimming trees that encroach on power lines.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

7A. INVESTMENT REPORT FOR JANUARY 2006

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **City Treasurer** that City Council accept and file the monthly investment report for the month of January 2006. (Companion to Redevelopment Agency item)

7B. CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH DAVID TAUSSIG & ASSOCIATES RE STREET LIGHTING ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Finance Director** that City Council approve and execute a consulting services agreement with David Taussig & Associates, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$60,750 to provide assessment engineering services for the Street Lighting Assessment District for Fiscal Year 2006-2007.

Considered separately, see page 4.

7C. BUDGET WORKSHOP/PUBLIC HEARING DATES

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Finance Director** that City Council approve May 9 and May 16, 2006 as dates to conduct two budget workshops/public hearings on the second year of the City's 2005-2007 Operating Budget and the 2007-2011 Capital Budget.

7D. PURCHASE OF COMPUTER WORKSTATIONS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY INFORMATION SYSTEM

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Chief of Police**, the **Fire Chief**, and the **Information Technology Director** that City Council award a purchase order to CDW Government, Inc., of Vernon Hills, IL, in the amount of \$159,019.15 for computer workstations for the new Police and Fire Public Safety Information System.

7E. CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH TETRA TECH, INC.

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Public Works Director** that City Council:

- 1) Approve a consulting services agreement with Tetra Tech, Inc., to update the City's Water System Computer Model, perform seven water system analysis and provide annual services in the amount of \$100,000;
- 2) Authorize the Mayor to execute and the City Clerk to attest to the agreement on behalf of the City; and
- 3) Appropriate \$100,000 from the Water Enterprise Fund to Water System Studies, I-52.

7F. PURCHASE AGREEMENTS RE WATER SERVICE PARTS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **General Services Director** and the **Public Works Director** that City Council authorize purchasing agreements with Hughes Supply of Valencia, CA and National Waterworks Inc. of Corona, CA in a total amount not to exceed \$190,000 for the purchase of Water Service stock. The two purchasing agreements will cover a 12-month term, effective March 8, 2006 through March 7, 2007.

MOTION: Councilmember Mauno moved for the approval of Consent Calendar Items 7A and 7C through 7F. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Scotto and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Consent Calendar Item 7B was considered separately at this time.

**7B. CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH DAVID TAUSSIG & ASSOCIATES
RE STREET LIGHTING ASSESSMENT DISTRICT**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Finance Director** that City Council approve and execute a consulting services agreement with David Taussig & Associates, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$60,750 to provide assessment engineering services for the Street Lighting Assessment District for Fiscal Year 2006-2007.

Rick Marshall, 235th Street, noted that David Taussig & Associates has been providing this service for a number of years and suggested that they should be able to give the City a cost break due to the repetitive nature of the reports prepared.

Finance Director Tsao advised that David Taussig & Associates gathers information and prepares the necessary reports so the City can continue to levy street lighting assessments; noted that some of this information changes from year to year and needs to be verified; and stressed the importance of being able to provide appropriate justification should an assessment be challenged.

Mayor Walker noted that contracts are analyzed before being presented to the Council to ensure that the City is not overpaying for services.

MOTION: Councilmember Mauno moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Witkowsky and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

11. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

**11A. SUPPORT FOR AB 2015 RE ADDITION OF FOUR MUNICIPAL MEMBERS TO
SCAQMD BOARD**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **City Manager** that City Council adopt a Resolution supporting AB2015 (Lieu) which requires change in membership of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Board to add four additional municipal members: one additional municipal representative for each county represented by the District.

Senior Management Associate Lopez advised that AB2015 would provide better representation for smaller cities on the SCAQMD Board.

Councilmember Mauno reported that the Independent Cities Association voted to endorse this legislation at their winter seminar.

Councilmember Witkowsky voiced support for AB 2015, noting that it has been in the works for some time and that it would allow cities such as Torrance and El Segundo, which have air quality issues due to refineries, to have a voice on the SCAQMD Board.

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Guyton and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2006-18

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING SUPPORT OF AB2015 (LIEU) WHICH ENHANCES MUNICIPAL REPRESENTATION ON THE SCAQMD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MOTION: Councilmember Witkowsky moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2006-18. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Scotto and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

11B. SUPPORT OF MEASURE TO SECURE LOCAL TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **City Manager** that City Council adopt a Resolution supporting a measure to secure local transportation funding.

Senior Management Associate Lopez reported that the proposed ballot measure would prevent the State legislature from diverting Proposition 42 funds, which are earmarked for cities and counties, for non-transportation expenses.

Councilmember Witkowsky advised that the League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division, has endorsed this ballot initiative and noted the League's previous success in spearheading a similar initiative, which required the State to return funds diverted from local governments.

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember McIntyre and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2006-19

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE IN SUPPORT OF A BALLOT MEASURE TO SECURE LOCAL TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

MOTION: Councilmember Guyton moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2006-19. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nowatka and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

11C. SELECTION OF EYE MED VISION CARE AS INSURANCE CARRIER

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Human Resources Director** that City Council approve the selection of Eye Med Vision Care as the insurance carrier for vision insurance benefits for eligible employees effective May 1, 2006 with premium rates guaranteed for four years, and authorize staff to implement the City-paid one-party vision insurance program beginning May 1, 2006.

Risk Manager Sellers briefly reviewed the proposal to provide one-party vision coverage for eligible employees.

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember McIntyre and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

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The Council met as the Redevelopment Agency from 6:45 p.m. to 6:47 p.m..

16. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

16A. Fire Chief Bongard announced that the Torrance Fire Fighters Association's Annual Spaghetti Dinner would be held at the Torrance Recreation Center on Saturday, March 18, from 4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. to benefit the Alisa Ann Ruch California Burn Foundation.

16B. City Clerk Herbers invited staff and public to view the watercolors of Torrance Artist Guild Member Douglas Simms Stenhouse on display in the City Clerk's office for the month of March.

16C. Councilmember Mauno noted he had viewed the construction of the tree house at Wilson Park and was looking forward to the grand opening.

16D. Councilmember Witkowsky stated she had attended ethics training as mandated per AB 1234 and found it very informative.

16E. Patrick Furey, Torrance Education Foundation President, invited the City Council and staff to attend the Celebrate Education Dinner on April 1.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:53 p.m., the Council recessed to closed session to confer with the City Manager and the City Attorney on agenda matters listed under 17A) Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation, and 17B) Real Property – Conference with Real Property Negotiator, pursuant to California Government Code Sections 54956.9(a) and 54956.8.

Councilmember Scotto exited the Executive Session at 7:11 p.m. and did not return.

The Council reconvened in Council Chambers at 7:23 p.m. No formal action was taken on any matter considered in closed session.

18. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:24 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, March 21, 2006 at 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. **Tuesday, March 14, 2006 will be a Council dark night.**

Attest:

/s/ Dan Walker

Mayor of the City of Torrance

/s/ Sue Herbers

Sue Herbers, CMC

City Clerk of the City of Torrance

Approved on April 18, 2006